



January 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Provost and Executive Vice President A. Scott Weber
Vice Presidents
Vice Provosts
Deans
Department Chairs
Chair, Faculty Senate
Chair, Professional Staff Senate
UBNow
The Spectrum

From: Satish K. Tripathi *Satish K. Tripathi*
President

RE: UB Faculty Senate Resolution to Amend Academic Calendars

Dear Colleagues:

After careful review and with the recommendation of our Provost and our Faculty Senate, it is my pleasure to approve and promulgate the **Faculty Senate Resolution to Amend the Academic Calendars** (dated 12/15/22). Enclosed is the new policy approved by the Faculty Senate.

My thanks to all who were involved in the development of this policy. Please share these documents with faculty and staff in your area as appropriate.

Enclosure

PREAMBLE

The goal of the proposal is to amend the academic calendar to be consistent with the university's mission of establishing "a diverse, inclusive scholarly community dedicated to bringing the benefits of our research, scholarship, creative activities and educational excellence to local and global communities in ways that impact and positively change the world." Specifically, we propose to include a two-day fall break in the middle of the semester to support students' needs, recognize necessary holidays to build a culture of diversity, social justice and inclusion, eliminate the overlap between commencement and final exams, and be in better alignment with academic calendars of peer AAU universities to facilitate research activities and student success. The changes we propose are minimal in practice and based on student and faculty feedback. The proposed dates are chosen to preserve appropriate breaks between semesters in recognition of the importance of faculty and student research work and life balance. We believe these changes are necessary to meet the university's mission.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE ACADEMIC CALENDARS

WHEREAS, there is ample evidence that student fatigue, homesickness, and stress around week 6 of each semester is a serious issue that may hinder student engagement and achievement;

WHEREAS, having a two-day fall break in the middle of the semester will help students with their fatigue and success by providing a meaningful break for rest, catching-up and/or visiting home;

WHEREAS, the current academic calendar does not allow any break until Wednesday before the Thanksgiving recess;

WHEREAS, having a two-day fall break in the middle of the semester will provide a catching-up time and release some fatigue and stress for faculty as well;

WHEREAS, all SUNY peer institutions and the majority of AAU public universities have a fall break;

WHEREAS, it is important and symbolic to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day to build a culture of diversity, social justice, and inclusion, but the current academic calendar does not recognize Indigenous Peoples Day;

WHEREAS, the academic calendar of the University at Buffalo is an outlier that begins and ends two weeks or more after most academic calendars of AAU universities and SUNY peer institutions;

WHEREAS, being in alignment with the academic calendars of AAU universities facilitates research activities for faculty and Ph.D. students;

WHEREAS, being in alignment with the academic calendars of AAU universities facilitates the recruitment of new faculty and Ph.D. students for some departments;

WHEREAS, being in alignment with the academic calendars of AAU universities facilitates internships, clinical positions, and academic transfers for both undergraduate and graduate students;

WHEREAS, there is a two-day overlap between spring final exams and commencement, which impacts the ability of students and faculty to successfully complete the semester and fully engage in commencement activities;

WHEREAS, it is important and symbolic to recognize Juneteenth to build a culture of diversity, social justice, and inclusion, but the current academic calendar does not recognize Juneteenth;

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a state holiday on which all UB offices are closed, but classes are held;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. We modify all seven possible academic calendars to include a two-day fall break around Indigenous Peoples Day (i.e., the 2nd Monday in October) that will allow students to celebrate the holiday and also help students and faculty with childcare needs (see Attachments 1 and 3).
2. We modify the calendars to start the fall semester one week earlier when it is necessary (i.e., start early in Calendars 1, 2, and 7) so that the last day of final exams does not end beyond December 20th (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3).
3. We modify the calendar to shift the winter sessions to allow for breaks between terms and sessions (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3).
4. We modify the calendar to start and end the spring semester earlier by one week, on average, so that (1) the duration of summer remains the same as the current calendar even in years we start the fall semester earlier, and (2) the overlap between final exams and commencement is eliminated (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3).

5. We modify the academic calendar to be in better alignment with the academic calendars of AAU universities and all SUNY peer institutions (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3).
6. We modify the academic calendar to recognize Juneteenth and not hold any classes (see Attachments 1 and 3).
7. We modify the academic calendar to allow for flexibility during the winter sessions to create three options and beyond (see Attachments 1, and 3).

Note: This academic calendar change proposal does not affect DDS, JD, or MD programs.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CALENDARS

There are seven possible academic calendars, each with or without a leap year. All the proposed academic calendars include a two-day fall break in October around Indigenous Peoples Day and necessary adjustments to meet minimum contact hour regulations. The proposed calendars do not shift the start of the fall semester unless it is necessary to avoid ending the fall semester after December 20th. As a result, Calendars 3, 4, 5, and 6 maintain the same starting dates as the current academic calendars, and only Calendars 1, 2, and 7 shift the beginning of the fall semester by one week.

All the proposed calendars start and end spring semesters earlier by an average of one week across seven calendars, but do not propose to start the spring semester before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In spring, the last day of exams falls on the Thursday before commencement so none of the proposed calendars have the two-day overlap between final exams and commencement.

The proposed calendars shift the winter sessions to allow for breaks between terms and sessions. The proposed calendars allow more flexibility by creating three standard sessions that each department or program can choose from: (1) a 10-day session that is fully in January, (2) a 14-day session that starts after Christmas in all years, (3) a 15-day session that also starts after Christmas in all years except one (i.e., Calendar 7). The proposed calendar also includes commentary to inform faculty of the option to offer classes outside of these standard sessions, provided that classes begin after fall exams, end before the start of spring, and meet the required number of contact hours.

The proposed calendars maintain the same length of summer sessions but add Juneteenth as a no-class day. The proposed calendars treat Juneteenth and Independence Day equally where if Juneteenth and/or Independence Day falls on Monday-Saturday, then classes are canceled on that day. If these holidays fall on Sunday, then classes are canceled the following Monday, consistent

with typical university closure. If Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Independence Day all fall in the 6-week I session, the proposed calendars extend that session by one day and start 6-week III session later. This results in 28 class days in 6-week I session and 29 class days in 6-week III session. The proposed calendars shift summer when it is necessary to ensure breaks between spring/summer and summer/fall. Consequently, the summer sessions in Calendars 1 and 2 begin one week earlier.

COMMENTS ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The primary objectives of the current proposal are to amend the academic calendar to better support student success and research activities of faculty. The dates shown on the attachments were chosen after careful consideration of available data, a thorough examination of evidence, consulting with student advising administrators, guidance from peer institutions on implementation, compliance with state and federal contact hour regulations, and feedback from faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate students.

One of the primary guiding principles behind the proposal was to maintain faculty research work obligations and life balance that will provide faculty and Ph.D. students an uninterrupted three months of summer to focus on research, as well as provide sufficient vacation or research time between semesters.

The proposed calendar dates were chosen to minimize disruption across all programs, especially lectures, discussions, or labs that meet only once a week, while we meet the objectives of the proposal. We looked at the distribution of the majority of these courses, collected feedback from faculty and students, and consulted with peer institutions on implementation.

The proposed calendar dates were chosen to ensure appropriate breaks between semesters, no overlap between the start of semesters and final grade deadlines, the optimal final exam and reading day period, and generally keeping the start of semesters on a similar date each year.

To support and facilitate various academic activities, the proposed calendars allow significant flexibility surrounding holidays in the winter sessions. While our data indicate the winter session calendar change will impact only a small number of students and faculty and almost all winter courses are held online, the proposed calendar builds in this flexibility to help each program meet its goal while ensuring an adequate break for those who do not teach or enroll in the winter session.

COMMENTS ON FACULTY AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

The detailed proposed dates included in this proposal went through multiple rounds of revisions as we gathered more feedback from various entities. We have attached the summary of faculty and student feedback collected via multiple feedback sessions and emails (see Attachments 4 and 5). In summary, the committee's interpretation is that there was substantial support for the objectives

and motivations of this academic calendar change proposal. However, consistent with the committee's concern, faculty and students recognize that, due to the limited number of days in a calendar year, realizing these benefits through adjustments to the calendar has impacts that may or may not be desirable. For example, there were concerns about possible drastic changes to the beginning and ending dates of the semester; the duration of each semester and session (especially during winter sessions); and synchronization issues for courses with labs and discussions.

To address these main concerns, the proposed academic calendar proposal shifts the beginning of the fall semester by one week in *only three out of seven calendars when it is necessary*. This is to avoid ending the fall semester beyond December 20th. To support the success of various academic programs during winter, the proposed calendar embeds unprecedented flexibility (see the description of winter sessions above) without significantly reducing the total number of calendar days between fall and spring. On average, the current calendar has 40 days between fall and spring, and the proposed calendar has 35 days.

Because of the contact hour regulation associated with courses that meet only once a week and to provide balance across courses that meet only once a week, the proposed calendar modifies the last day of the fall semester so that it ends on Monday of week 16. This ensures that all courses meet at least 14 times regardless of which day they meet. The committee also recognizes that the insertion of a break poses challenges for classes that have lecture and lab components that meet on different days of the week, especially when one of those days is Monday. However, given the significant support from students and faculty, and the potential benefits to student success, the committee still recommends including a two-day fall break with the expectations that faculty will be able to adjust with openness and creativity. Ideas discussed include learning from our peer institutions who have implemented an October fall break, moving one of the sessions virtual in a manner that can still provide meaningful learning experience for students, consolidating two current lab meetings into one, or moving lab sections off of Mondays in cases where other solutions are not possible.

ATTACHMENT 1

Overview of Proposed Academic Calendars

	Calendar 1 (2027-28)	Calendar 2 (2033-34)	Calendar 3 (2023-24; 2028-29)	Calendar 4 (2029-30)	Calendar 5 (2024-25)	Calendar 6 (2025-26)	Calendar 7 (2026-27)
<i>Summer - 12 week</i>							
First day of classes	May 24	May 23	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26
Last day of classes	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14
No class days: Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day							
<i>Fall</i>							
First day of classes	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24
Last day of exams	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16
No class days: Labor Day, Fall Break (Indigenous Peoples Day and following Tuesday), Thanksgiving Break (Wed-Sat), Reading Day							
<i>Winter</i>							
First day of classes	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 28	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 24*
Last day of classes	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15
No class days: Christmas (if during session), New Year's Day							
Note: There are 3 standard sessions in the Winter Session. Faculty also have the option to offer non-standard classes provided that classes begin after fall exams, end prior to the start of spring, and meet the appropriate number of contact hours.							
* In Calendar 7, the 15-day session starts on Dec. 24, and the 14-day session starts Dec. 28.							
<i>Spring (not leap year)</i>							
First day of classes	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20
Last day of exams	May 12	May 11	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13
Commencement	May 13 - 15	May 12 - 14	May 18 - 20	May 17 - 19	May 16 - 18	May 15 - 17	May 14 - 16
No class days: Spring break, Reading Day							

ATTACHMENT 2

Comparison Summary Between Current and Proposed Calendars

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
<i>Summer - 12 week</i>		
Earliest/latest start	May 26/June 1	May 23/May 30
Earliest/latest end	Aug 14/Aug 20	Aug 12/Aug 18
	<i>9 days in every year except 1 (which is 16 days)</i>	
<i>Days between summer and fall</i>		<i>9 days in every year</i>
<i>Fall</i>		
Earliest/latest start	Aug 25/Aug 31	Aug 22/Aug 28
Earliest/latest end	Dec 15/Dec 21	Dec 14/Dec 20
<i>Mean number of days between fall and winter</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Winter</i>		
Earliest/latest start	Jan 2/Jan 6	Dec 24/Dec 28
Earliest/latest end	Jan 22/Jan 25	Jan 13/Jan 19
		Calendar 7: 15-day session starts Dec 24; 14-day session starts Dec 28
<i>Days between winter and spring</i>	<i>2-5 days depending on year</i>	<i>4 days in every year</i>
<i>Days between fall and spring</i>	<i>34 in 1 year; 41 in 6 years</i>	<i>34 in 6 years; 41 in 1 years</i>
<i>Spring</i>		
Earliest/latest start	Jan 25/Jan 31	Jan 18/Jan 24
Earliest/latest end	May 15/May 21	May 11/May 17
Commencement weekend		Same in 5 years; One week earlier in 2 years
<i>Days between spring and summer</i>	<i>9 in 6 years; 16 in Calendar 7</i>	<i>10 or 11 days in 6; 18 in Calendar 2</i>

ATTACHMENT 3

Detailed Calendar Comparisons

Calendar 1 (next occurrence: 2027-28)		
	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	Mon, May 31	Mon, May 31
Summer Session 6-Week I	Jun 1 – Jul 9	May 24 – Jul 2
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 28 – Aug 6	Jun 21 – Jul 30
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 12 – Aug 20	Jul 6 – Aug 13
Summer Session 9-Week	Jun 1 – Jul 30	May 24 – Jul 23
Summer Session 12-Week	Jun 1 – Aug 20	May 24 – Aug 13
Juneteenth	Not observed	Sat, Jun 19
Independence Day	Sun, Jul 4	Mon, Jul 5
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9
Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 30	Aug 23
Labor Day	Sep 6	Sep 6
Fall Break	None	Oct 11 – 12
Thanksgiving	Nov 24 – 27	Nov 24 – 27
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 10	Mon, Dec 6
Reading Days	Dec 11 – 12	Tues, Dec 7
Exams	Dec 13 – 20	Dec 8 – 15
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	15	11
Winter		
15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 5 – Jan 25	Mon, Dec 27 – Jan 14
14-day session	None	Tues, Dec 28 – Jan 14
10-day session (2-week)	None	Jan 3 – Jan 14
Christmas Day	Not during session	Not during all three sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Sat, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	5	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 17	Not during all three sessions
Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 31	Wed, Jan 19
Spring Break	Mar 21 – 26	Mar 14 – 19
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 13	Tues, May 3
Reading Day	May 14 – 15	Wed, May 4
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 16 – 21	May 5 – 12
Commencement	May 20 – 22	May 13 – 15
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 2	Calendar 2
Spring - Leap Year		

First Day of Classes	Jan 31	Wed, Jan 19
Spring Break	Mar 20 – 25	Mar 13 – 18
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 12	Tues, May 2
Reading Day	May 13 – 14	Wed, May 3
Exams	May 15 – 20	May 4 – 11
Commencement	May 19 – 21	May 12 – 14
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 3	Calendar 3
<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	10

Calendar 2 (next occurrence: 2033-34)

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	Mon, May 30	Mon, May 30
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 31 – Jul 8	May 23 – Jul 1
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 27 – Aug 5	Jun 21 – Jul 29
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 11 – Aug 19	Jul 5 – Aug 12
Summer Session 9-Week	May 31 – Jul 29	May 23 – Jul 22
Summer Session 12-Week	May 31 – Aug 19	May 23 – Aug 12
Juneteenth	Not observed	Mon, Jun 20
Independence Day	Mon, Jul 4	Mon, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9
Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 29	Aug 22
Labor Day	Sep 5	Sep 5
Fall Break	None	Oct 10 – 11
Thanksgiving	Nov 23 – 26	Nov 23 – 26
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 9	Mon, Dec 5
Reading Days	Dec 10 – 11	Tues, Dec 6
Exams	Dec 12 – 19	Dec 7 – 14
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	15	11
Winter		
15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 4 – 24	Mon, Dec 26 – Jan 13
14-day session	None	Tues, Dec 27 – Jan 13
10-day session (2-week)	None	Mon, Jan 2 – 13
Christmas Day	Not during session	Not during all three sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Sun, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	5	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 16	Not during all three sessions

Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 30	Wed, Jan 18
Spring Break	Mar 20 – 25	Mar 13 – 18

Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 12	Tues, May 2
Reading Day	May 13 –14	Wed, May 3
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 15 – 20	May 4 – 11
Commencement	May 19 – 21	May 12 – 14

<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 3	Calendar 3
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Spring - Leap Year

First Day of Classes	Jan 30	Wed, Jan 18
Spring Break	Mar 19 – 24	Mar 12 – 17
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 11	Tues, May 1
Reading Day	May 12 – 13	Wed, May 2
Exams	May 14 – 19	May 3 – 10
Commencement	May 18 – 20	May 11 – 13

<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 4	Calendar 4
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<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	18
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Calendar 3 (next occurrence: 2023-24, then 2028-29)

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	May 29	May 29
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 30 – Jul 7	May 30 – Jul 10
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 26 – Aug 4	Jun 26 – Aug 4
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 10 – Aug 18	Jul 11 – Aug 18
Summer Session 9-Week	May 30 – Jul 28	May 30 – Jul 28
Summer Session 12-Week	May 30 – Aug 18	May 30 – Aug 18
Juneteenth	Not observed	Mon, Jun 19
Independence Day	Tues, Jul 4	Tues, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9

Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 28	Aug 28
Labor Day	Sep 4	Sep 4
Fall Break	None	Oct 9 – 10
Thanksgiving	Nov 22 – 25	Nov 22 – 25
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 8	Mon, Dec 11
Reading Days	Dec 9 –10	Tues-Dec 12
Exams	Dec 11 – 18	Dec 13 – 20
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	16	7

Winter		
15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 4 – 24	Thurs, Dec 28 – Jan 19
14-day session	None	Fri, Dec 29 – Jan 19
10-day session (2-week)	None	Jan 3 – 17
Christmas Day	Not during session	Not during all three sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Mon, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes

<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	4	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	34
<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	Jan 15	Jan 15
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Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 29	Wed, Jan 24
Spring Break	Mar 19 – 24	Mar 12 – 17
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 11	Tues, May 8
Reading Day	May 12 – 13	Wed, May 9
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 14 – 19	May 10 – 17
Commencement	May 18 – 20	May 18 – 20
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 4	Calendar 4
Spring - Leap Year		
First Day of Classes	Jan 29	Wed, Jan 24
Spring Break	Mar 18 – 23	Mar 11 – 16
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 10	Tues, May 7
Reading Day	May 11 – 12	Wed, May 8
Exams	May 13 – 18	May 9 – 16
Commencement	May 17 – 19	May 17 – 19
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 5	Calendar 5
<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	11

Calendar 4 (next occurrence: 2029-30)

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	May 28	May 28
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 29 – Jul 6	May 29 – Jul 9
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 25 – Aug 3	Jun 25 – Aug 3
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 9 – Aug 17	Jul 10 – Aug 17
Summer Session 9-Week	May 29 – Jul 27	May 29 – Jul 27
Summer Session 12-Week	May 29 – Aug 17	May 29 – Aug 17
Juneteenth	Not observed	Tues, Jun 19
Independence Day	Wed, Jul 4	Wed, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9
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Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 27	Aug 27
Labor Day	Sep 3	Sep 3
Fall Break	None	Oct 8 – 9
Thanksgiving	Nov 21 – 24	Nov 21 – 24
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 7	Mon, Dec 10
Reading Days	Dec 8 – 9	Tues, Dec 11
Exams	Dec 10 – 17	Dec 12 – 19
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	15	8
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Winter		
15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 2 – 23	Fri, Dec 28 – Jan 18
14-day session	None	Mon, Dec 31 – Jan 18

10-day session (2-week)	None	Mon, Jan 7 – 18
Christmas Day	Not during session Tues, Jan 1	Not during all three sessions Tues, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session
New Year's Day		
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	4	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	41
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 21	Not during all three sessions
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Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 28	Wed, Jan 23
Spring Break	Mar 18 – 23	Mar 18 – 23
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 10	Tues, May 7
Reading Day	May 11 – 12	Wed, May 8
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 13 – 18	May 9 – 16
Commencement	May 17 – 19	May 17 – 19
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 5	Calendar 5
Spring - Leap Year		
First Day of Classes	Jan 28	Wed, Jan 23
Spring Break	Mar 17 – 22	Mar 17 – 22
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 9	Tues, May 6
Reading Day	May 10 – 11	Wed, May 7
Exams	May 12 – 17	May 8 – 15
Commencement	May 16 – 18	May 16 – 18
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 6	Calendar 6
<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	11

Calendar 5 (next occurrence: 2024-25)

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	May 27	May 27
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 28 – Jul 5	May 28 – Jul 8
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 24 – Aug 2	Jun 24 – Aug 2
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 8 – Aug 16	Jul 9 – Aug 16
Summer Session 9-Week	May 28 – Jul 26	May 28 – Jul 26
Summer Session 12-Week	May 28 – Aug 16	May 28 – Aug 16
Juneteenth	Not observed	Wed, Jun 19
Independence Day	Thurs, 4-Jul	Thurs, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9

Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 26	Aug 26
Labor Day	Sep 2	Sep 2
Fall Break	None	Oct 14 – 15
Thanksgiving	Nov 27 – 30	Nov 27 – 30
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 6	Mon, Dec 9
Reading Days	Dec 7 – 8	Tues, Dec 10

Exams	Dec 9 – 16	Dec 11 – 18
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	20	8
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Winter		
15-day session (3 week)*	Jan 6 – 24	Fri, Dec 27 – Jan 17
14-day session	None	Mon, Dec 30 – Jan 17
10-day session (2-week)	None	Mon, Jan 6 – 17
Christmas Day	Not during session	Not during all three sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Wed, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	2	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 20	Not during all three sessions
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Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 27	Wed, Jan 22
Spring Break	Mar 17 – 22	Mar 17 – 22
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 9	Tues, May 6
Reading Day	May 10 – 11	Wed, May 7
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 12 – 17	May 8 – 15
Commencement	May 16 – 18	May 16 – 18
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 6	Calendar 6
Spring - Leap Year		
First Day of Classes	Jan 27	Wed, Jan 22
Spring Break	Mar 16 – 21	Mar 16 – 21
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 8	Tues, May 5
Reading Day	May 9 – 10	Wed, May 6
Exams	May 11 – 16	May 7 – 14
Commencement	May 15 – 17	May 15 – 17
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 7	Calendar 7
<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	11
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Calendar 6 (next occurrence: 2025-26)		
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	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	May 26	May 26
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 27 – Jul 3	May 27 – Jul 7
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 23 – Aug 1	Jun 23 – Aug 1
Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 7 – Aug 15	Jul 8 – Aug 15
Summer Session 9-Week	May 27 – Jul 25	May 27 – Jul 25
Summer Session 12-Week	May 27 – Aug 15	May 27 – Aug 15
Juneteenth	Not observed	Thurs, Jun 19
Independence Day	Fri, Jul 4	Fri, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	9	9
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Fall

First Day of Classes	Aug 25	Aug 25
Labor Day	Sep 1	Sep 1
Fall Break	None	Oct 13 –14
Thanksgiving	Nov 26 – 29	Nov 26 – 29
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 5	Mon, Dec 8
Reading Days	Dec 6 – 7	Tues, Dec 9
Exams	Dec 8 – 15	Dec 10 – 17

<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	20	8
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Winter

15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 5 – 23	Fri, Dec 26 – Jan 16
14-day session	None	Mon, Dec 29 – Jan 16
10-day session (2-week)	None	Mon, Jan 5 – 16
Christmas Day	Not during session	Not during all three sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Thurs, Jan 1; Not during 10-day session

Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
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<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	2	4
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<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	41	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 19	Not during all three sessions

Spring

First Day of Classes	Jan 26	Wed, Jan 21
Spring Break	Mar 16 – 21	Mar 16 – 21
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 8	Tues, May 5
Reading Day	May 9 – 10	Wed, May 6
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 11 – 16	May 7 – 14
Commencement	May 15 – 17	May 15 – 17

<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 7	Calendar 7
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Spring - Leap Year

First Day of Classes	Jan 26	Wed, Jan 21
Spring Break	Mar 15 – 20	Mar 15 – 20
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 7	Tues, May 4
Reading Day	May 8 – 9	Wed, May 5
Exams	May 10 – 15	May 6 – 13
Commencement	May 14 – 16	May 14 – 16

<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 1	Calendar 1
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<i>Break (# Calendar Days between Spring and Summer)</i>	9	11 if not leap year; 10 if leap year
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Calendar 7 (next occurrence: 2026-27)

	Current Calendar	Proposed Calendar
Summer		
Memorial Day	May 25	May 25
Summer Session 6-Week I	May 26 – Jul 3	May 26 – Jul 3
Summer Session 6-Week II	Jun 22 – Jul 31	Jun 22 – Jul 31

Summer Session 6-Week III	Jul 6 – Aug 14	Jul 7 – Aug 14
Summer Session 9-Week	May 26 – Jul 24	May 26 – Jul 24
Summer Session 12-Week	May 26 – Aug 14	May 26 – Aug 14
Juneteenth	Not observed	Fri, Jun 19
Independence Day	Sat, Jul 4	Sat, Jul 4
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Summer and Fall)</i>	16	9
<hr/>		
Fall		
First Day of Classes	Aug 31	Aug 24
Labor Day	Sep 7	Sep 7
Fall Break	None	Oct 12 – 13
Thanksgiving	Nov 25 – 28	Nov 25 – 28
Last Day of Classes	Fri, Dec 11	Mon, Dec 7
Reading Days	Dec 12 – 13	Tues, Dec 8
Exams	Dec 14 – 21	Dec 9 – 16
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Fall and Winter)</i>	13	7
<hr/>		
Winter		
15-day session (3-week)*	Jan 4 – 22	Thurs, Dec 24 – Jan 15
14-day session	None	Mon, Dec 28 – Jan 15
10-day session (2-week)	None	Mon, Jan 4 – 15
Christmas Day	Not during session	Fri, 25-Dec; Not during 14- or 10-day sessions
New Year's Day	Not during session	Fri, Jan 1
Option to Offer Non-Standard Classes**	No	Yes
<i>Break (# of Calendar Days between Winter and Spring)</i>	2	4
<i># of Calendar Days between Fall and Spring</i>	34	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan 18	Not during all three sessions
<hr/>		
Spring		
First Day of Classes	Jan 25	Wed, Jan 20
Spring Break	Mar 15 – 20	Mar 15 – 20
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 7	Tues, May 4
Reading Day	May 8 – 9	Wed, May 5
Exams (Mon-Sat; not Sun)	May 10 – 15	May 6 – 13
Commencement	May 14 – 16	May 14 – 16
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 1	Calendar 1
Spring - Leap Year		
First Day of Classes	Jan 25	Wed, Jan 20
Spring Break	Mar 14 – 19	Mar 14 – 19
Last Day of Classes	Fri, May 6	Tues, May 3
Reading Day	May 7 – 8	Wed, May 4
Exams	May 9 – 14	May 5 – 12
Commencement	May 13 – 15	May 13 – 15
<i>Next Calendar</i>	Calendar 2	Calendar 2

*The number of days refers to class days. A 15-day session is equivalent to a 3 calendar-week session. **There are 3 standard sessions in the winter session. However, faculty also have the option to offer non-standard classes provided that classes begin after fall final exams, end prior to the start of spring, and meet the appropriate number of contact hours.

ATTACHMENT 4

Summary of Student and Faculty Feedback

Student Feedback

The student feedback session was organized by Student Life to maximize student participation. It was held in person on September 27 in Student Union.

1. Students discussed the need for mental health breaks (e.g., optional and mandatory mental health days) and student success should come first in designing academic calendars.
2. Fall Semester:
 - Students emphatically supported having a fall break.
 - Students argue that it would be more beneficial to have the additional break in October and adding the break in November does not help much with their fatigue. Therefore, the break in October falls at the right time when a break would be valuable.
 - Students support recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day from equity and inclusion perspective; they argued that this would be a big step for the university because on many syllabi, it is acknowledged that UB operates on the territory of the Seneca Nation.
 - Break on Indigenous Peoples Day would be new to students and feels more celebratory than an extension of Thanksgiving; and also better for people's mental health that would allow them to recharge.
 - Students would use the two-day fall break to catch up on work, rest, and go home to see their family.
 - Freshmen are already feeling the pressure this semester and an October break would make a big difference.
 - December 21st should be ideally the very last possible day for exams; should not go beyond.
 - Fall can hypothetically start on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday; squeeze in reading days during the week instead of the weekend.
 - It could be difficult with many Mondays off for labs and classes only offered on Mondays; should end the semester on a Monday instead of a Friday.



- Longer Thanksgiving break would not impact people's plans because they will leave regardless if they have classes; most professors cancel classes during that week anyway.

3. Winter Sessions:

- Students can choose whether or not to take courses over the winter, so winter session is less important.
- It would be more valuable to give professors flexibility.
- The current winter session is already too short for decent internship, so winter sessions are just more about social time, therefore, it would be OK to shorten it. However, students do not suggest to shorten it too much because it still provides valuable time to rest and travel.
- Students recommend that professors consider possible impact to RAs who come early and stay later.
- Many students think that winter session is too long and it is conducive to making them getting out of good habits and get lazy.
- Students think that condensing winter slightly and starting sessions between Christmas and New Year's Day would be plausible.
- One graduate student who teaches in winter session said that shortening or starting in December is ok, but could be tricky. This student felt that fall break was more important than winter.
- Students recommend to look at statistics of which courses are most popular and give students flexibility of choosing whether they want to take calculus vs. coding certificate.
- Winter break can be a useful time for international students to return home and shortened break can interfere; December does not even feel like a break to many students and January is time to relax and travel.
- Students understand the constraint and ending spring semester earlier and graduating on time will not prevent people from taking a winter course even if it starts before New Year's Day.
- A question was raised whether it would be possible for winter online classes to start on a different date than in-person to accommodate for travel.

4. Spring Semester:

- Many students would like to start and end spring earlier to have appropriate breaks between exams and jobs/internships; ending in the 20's of May is too late.
- Commencement during May 20-31 is too late for many students.
- UB ends spring semester later than many of peer institutions. This creates disadvantage for students who are trying to get jobs and internship because they are unable to start earlier than other students.



- UB students go into summer internship burned out because the spring semester goes weeks longer than other schools; want to make sure that the academic calendars are designed to make UB students more competitive and desirable, and even the playing field.
- Students do not really want to start any earlier than MLK day for spring.

5. Summer Sessions:

- Some students suggest not to shorten summer significantly because they are concerned about losing income.
- Students support observing Juneteenth.

Faculty Feedback

There were three faculty feedback sessions. To maximize participation, we held two in-person sessions on both North and South campus, and one virtual session. These were held on September 16th (North Campus), 19th (Virtual), and 29th (South Campus). We also collected individual feedback from faculty who reached out using various methods. The summary of the faculty feedback is the following:

1. The faculty generally recognized that the academic calendar change proposal will not be desirable for everyone, making any change is hard, and faculty will need to be creative in adjusting to changes.
2. In both fall and spring, the proposed calendars need to preserve reading days and should not compress the end of the semester.
3. Fall Semesters:
 - The faculty generally recognized that fall break would be good for students and faculty. However, there were some who were indifferent or skeptical that adding a fall break will help student success.
 - The faculty raised some possible concerns for working parents associated with child care if the fall semester starts one week earlier.
 - There were mixed views on whether it would be better to start the fall semester early to avoid ending too close to holidays or ending the semester late without starting early. There were strong opinions for both views.
 - The faculty agreed that aligning the fall break with Indigenous Peoples Day helps with childcare.
 - Some suggested to consider first two days of Thanksgiving week instead of Indigenous Peoples Day and there was a discussion of whether Labor Day could



be a class day. There was a recognition having a class on Labor Day could lead to a union issue and child care issues.

- There were concerns about misalignment of labs, discussions, and lectures arising from low student attendance, although the total number of meeting days are equal.
 - The faculty recognized that SUNY peer-institutions figured out the issue.
 - There was some indication that it may be reasonable to shift one lab to online format and that may help with alignment.
 - The representative from the Department of Biological Sciences claimed that University at Albany and Stony Brook University biology courses dropped a lab when their calendars changed and that the Department of Biological Sciences is neither interested in doing that or a virtual lab so would most stop labs on Monday and add more evening labs.
 - Via email, the Department of Biological Sciences large course instructors suggested extending the semester by one additional week (i.e., recommending the fall semester to be full 16 weeks long) so the last week of classes ended the following Friday, but this did not get support.

4. Winter Sessions:

- Some faculty and students enjoy the long winter break and ability to do research, therefore, they suggest not to shorten too much; some disagree with emphasis given that the summer is more important.
- There was support for keeping winter session because it is a good opportunity for students and faculty, although it is intense.
- We need to ensure adequate time for study abroad programs.
- There was a suggestion to do 3 calendar weeks instead of 15 days to facilitate adjustment, but others want to ensure that we continue to have a 15-day session.
- There was initial skepticism of starting in December, but there was support for offering flexibility to faculty via multiple sessions that start at different times or completely non-standard to allow greatest flexibility.

5. Spring Semesters:

- All agreed - some emphatically - that exams should not overlap with commencement.
- There was support to end earlier because ending later impact student placement negatively.



- There was agreement that spring starts and ends too late, but start of spring should not be changed significantly (i.e., should be days, not weeks)
 - Spring should start in the 20's not the teens
- There was a suggestion to make sure there is time between spring/summer and summer/fall – for work/life balance but also for travel to/from Singapore and study abroad programs
- There was a concern that this shift shouldn't impact winter too greatly.

6. Summer Sessions:

- Juneteenth would be difficult for labs, but people still support it because faculty or department would likely be able to adjust lab times.
- Some recommended to consider reviewing the summer sessions so that all three holidays don't fall in the same session.
- Some suggested that shifting summer to start earlier may help if that means Independence Day and Juneteenth are not in the same session.

ATTACHMENT 5

UB Student Government Support Letter

(on the following page)



Suite 350 Student Union Amherst, New York 14260
 (716) 645-2950 fax: (716) 645-2112 www.sa.buffalo.edu

October 5th, 2022

Dr. Joanne McLaughlin
 Chair, Academic Policy and Grading Committee
 University at Buffalo Faculty Senate

Dr. Joanne McLaughlin,

The University at Buffalo Student Association Inc., serving as the undergraduate student government for the University at Buffalo and representing over 21,000 undergraduate students at UB, expresses their support for the newly-configured academic calendar drafted by the Academic Policy and Grading Committee. This calendar includes:

- A two-day fall break in October;
- Removal of the overlap between the spring final examination period and commencement weekend;
- The inclusion of a no-class day on June 19th, in observance of Juneteenth; and
- Necessary adjustments to the start of fall, winter, and spring semesters to provide breaks between semesters and accommodate necessary holidays.

As the elected representatives of the undergraduate student body, we wholeheartedly support these proposed changes to the academic calendar. These changes enhance the undergraduate student experience, provide more flexibility in undergraduate scheduling, and otherwise recognize important dates and holidays in the undergraduate community and beyond.

Becky Paul Odionhin
 President/Chief Executive Officer

Sammi Pang
 Vice President

Alana Lesczynski
 Treasurer